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Hawk Talk

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The Official Newsletter of Columbia Basin College

FREE

A Message from the President



Hello Hawks.

We wrapped up another academic year with pinning ceremonies, celebrations, and commencement. Wow! It was a busy also the culmination of all the hard work of our students, and all of you that support our students throughout the year and helped them successfully arrive at that finish line. Thank you. We had nearly 1600 graduates and almost 1,100 students walk for graduation. Thank you to everyone that either wore regalia to participate in the ceremony and cheer on our graduates or if you helped behind the scenes to make the ceremonies possible. We needed all of you. We are already beginning to discuss plans for 2026, so stay tuned.

That is because construction is underway for our second student housing building. Construction is planned to be completed for fall 2026, which is a good thing because Sunhawk Hall has already been full for fall for a few weeks now.

Triple digit temperatures. That usually means summer has arrived in the Tri-Cities and with that, summer camps at CBC. Professor Tim Harris just wrapped up a forensics summer camp for high school students. Cinthia Alvarez just finished a Cultivating Futures camp in partnership with Kennewick School District and our agriculture faculty. Coming up we have CBC's summer bootcamp python training July 9 and 10 with Professor Bilal Ahmed. This will be a hands-on interactive camp designed to expose students to core concepts of python programming. And last, but not least, Recruitment and Outreach is hosting a summer camp July 8 through 11 in partnership with the Planetarium and several faculty members who will be showcasing forensics AI and computer science, project management, surgical technology, sterile processing, nuclear technology, OSHA, and physics programs. We are hoping to expose students to the wide variety of programs on campus. Thank you to all the faculty and staff that are supporting this effort.

I'd like to end with acknowledging all the changes that are continuing to happen at the federal level that seem to bring more and more uncertainty into our lives many of them impacting our students, our employees, and our community directly. Even when decisions are made and announced, they're challenged within hours, or interpreted differently the next day just exacerbating the ambiguity and insecurity that so many are feeling. We do not know all the impacts of the recent Supreme Court decision that restricts a federal judge's authority to grant nationwide injunctions, or how that will impact the President's birthright citizenship ban. We realize this may have a significant impact for many of our students, families, employees, and community. As we wait to learn more, we remain unwavering in our commitment to support everyone to the best of our ability. I realize those words may sound hollow at this point. I wish there was something concrete and reassuring I could say.

Please extend everyone grace and patience as we journey through this together. We do not know what anyone else is going through. And please – find some time this summer to take care of you to truly unplug and enjoy the beautiful sunshine and surroundings we are so fortunate to have here in the Tri-Cities. Take care and Go Hawks.

CBC Graduation Highlight Video 2025 



Submitted by Carolene Hall, Program Coordinator for School of Health Sciences

Hello Hawks. I would like to give a Hawk Talk shout out to President Woods, Administration, faculty, our camera crew, and all the staff volunteers!

As a student walking in graduation this year I was so impressed by how smoothly the ceremony was and that is not an easy task to coordinate all the moving parts! I am so honored to be a CBC graduate and to be a part of such an excellent team! Thank you, thank you, and thank you for your dedication! I had the BEST GRADUATION!

Campus News



CBC Students Experience Professional Theater at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Students from CBC's Theater Department and Intro to Shakespeare (ENG 220) class traveled to Ashland, Oregon to experience the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in June. Professors Ronn Campbell and Amy Wortley won an Exceptional Faculty Award to fund this fantastic experience for the students.

On this trip, students had the opportunity to experience three plays performed by the OSF. The first play was an interpretation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet". Written by James Ijames's, this sizzling cookout comedy follows Juicy, a queer Black kid living in the South. When the ghost of his dead father appears at a family BBQ demanding revenge for his murder, Juicy must grapple with the decision to heed his phantom father's advice or become a cycle breaker. This play was hands down voted the favorite of the trip by the students. Theater has such a powerful way of letting people feel seen and understood, and it was a privilege to join the students in this experience.

The second play students had the chance to watch was Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest". Originally set in England, OSF transports Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners to the British Malay Peninsula, a colonial melting pot of South Asian, Chinese, and English communities. Two young men, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, opt to navigate Victorian-era expectations of courtship simply by evading them. But when their personas and egos begin to collide, the pair get caught up in a wit-fueled whirlwind of mistaken identities and romantic snafus. This "trivial comedy for serious people" reveals the absurd lengths that humans will go to in pursuit of acceptance, love, and truth. The students laughed themselves silly while experiencing the ridiculous hijinks of all the characters.

The third and final play the students attended was Shakespeare's iconic "As You Like It". Anything can happen in Shakespeare's forest of Arden, including poems in the trees, star-crossed shepherds, and a band of exiles who become family. Identities are lost and true selves are found in Shakespeare's beloved comedy re-imagined in the 1960s. This play used Shakespeare's original language and verse, but the caliber of the production was so high that students expressed no difficulty in following the dialogue or plot. It was a hit all around. This

such a memorable trip!" and another student wanted to emphasize "It was fantastic and very memorable. I learned a lot of new, cool things!"

The students came away from their time at OSF with a newfound appreciation of professional theater, the work it takes to produce plays of this quality, and the wit and wisdom of Shakespeare's plays.

Shakespeare wrote about timeless themes such as life and death, love and hate, fate and free will, to name but a few. With the constantly changing world we live in today, these themes are perhaps more relevant than ever, and it was wonderful to get to share in this experience with our students.

Article submitted by Amy Wortley.



Campus Security Advisory - Animals In Hot Vehicles

As the mercury rises, it's crucial to remember our furry friends' safety. Every year, countless pets suffer and even die from heatstroke after being left in parked vehicles. The temperature inside a car can soar to lethal levels within minutes, even on a day that doesn't seem hot to you.

Cracking the windows has little effect on the vehicle's internal temperature. Before you bring your pet to work, please consider this and CBC's Animal Control on College Property/Facilities [policy](#) before you do so. It's always safer to leave your pet at home.

If you happen to come across an animal trapped in a hot car, take immediate action:

1. First, assess the pet's condition. If they are showing signs of heatstroke (restlessness, heavy panting, lethargy, a dark tongue, or convulsions), call Tri-City Animal Control (509.545.3740) or Pasco Police non-emergency (509.628.0333) immediately.
2. Take note of the car's make, model, and license plate number and try to locate the owner if possible. Campus Security can assist with helping to find the owner.

Article submitted by Campus Security.



Summer ID Office Hours for Faculty and Staff

Your TLCE Instructional Designer (ID) Group, Donny Anderson and Katie Bullock, will hold office hours every Thursday this summer. We are thrilled to share that the Assistive Technology (AT) Group, Katie McBride and Jerry Gundry, in Disability Support Services (DSS) will be joining ID Office Hours this summer for further digital accessibility support!

Faculty and staff are welcome to stop by online for one-on-one and small-group teaching and learning support (including digital accessibility) or to work and connect in a collaborative space.

Summer ID Office Hours:

- Day: Every Thursday*
- Time: 2 to 4 pm (drop-in style)
- Location: Zoom (ID Office Hours [Zoom Link](#))

*ID Office Hours Not Available On:

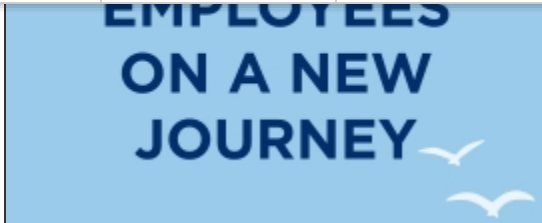
- July 3

*ID Office Hours with Accessibility Support Only:

On the dates below, the ID Group (Donny and Katie B.) will be unavailable to attend ID Office Hours to help with instructional support. However, a member from the AT Group (Katie M. and Jerry) will still be available to help with any accessibility questions on the following dates below:

- July 24
- July 31

Article submitted by the TLCE Instructional Designer Group.



Employees on a New Journey

Dear Columbia Basin College Community,
We would like to inform you that the following employees are no longer with Columbia Basin College. We appreciate their contributions and dedication to the institution and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

- **Heidi Cook** - Human Resources
- **Shelley Lauvrak** - Custodial Services
- **Hannah Throop** - Financial Aid
- **James Renshaw** - Financial Aid
- **Nicholas Criddle** - Mathematics
- **Andrea Harris** - Dental Hygiene
- **Eric Melby** - Chemistry
- **Eric Robinson** - Cyber Security
- **Kyle Winslow** - Business & Computer Science

If you have any questions regarding the transition of responsibilities, please reach out to the appropriate department for further guidance. We appreciate your cooperation and support during this period of change.

Article submitted by Human Resources.



New Faculty Mentoring Program

Thank You, 2024-2025 Mentors and Presenters!

Sincere appreciation goes out to the faculty members who stepped up to be mentors for this year's New Faculty Mentoring Program.

We had an amazing year thanks to the mentors and also the presenters of our 3 professional development events (Working at an HSI (Dr. Luz Garza), Achieving Work-Life Balance and Time Management (Dr. Joe Streetman), Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in the Classroom (Dr. Ekaterina Stoops & Donny Anderson).

The New Faculty Mentoring Program is designed to support the professional development and successful integration of CBC's new faculty members into the academic community, while promoting a culture of collaboration and teaching excellence.

This year, 19 of the 21 new faculty members chose to partner with a mentor, highlighting the value of mentorship. The mentors served an essential role by sharing their expertise with new faculty and providing support which contributes directly to student success and strengthens CBC's academic community. The mentors willingness to help guide the next generation of educators is highly appreciated.

A heartfelt thank you to this year's mentors and presenters who made this year's program amazing:

- Shannon Ardamica-Hall
- David Arnold
- Antonio Cruz
- Amy Donovan
- Kay Feliciano-Nguyen
- Billy Getty
- Jeff Harris
- Chris Herbert
- Andrea Jones
- Shawn Nyman
- Phil Ponn
- Yu Ying
- Sarah Rogers
- Kim Trinh
- Yongsheng Sun
- Carrie DeLeon
- Azhar Zaheer
- Dr. Luz Garza
- Dr. Joe Streetman
- Dr. Ekaterina Stoops
- Donny Anderson

And a very special thank you to Dr. Michael Lee who sponsors the New Faculty Mentoring Program and offered incredible support throughout the year! Thank you, Dr. Lee!

To learn more about CBC's mentoring program please reach out to [Jeff Harris](#).

Article submitted by Jeff Harris.



A Sustainable Commuting Update: What's New with BFT?

The Sustainability Committee encourages all staff to stay informed about local



A Safer, Healthier Workplace Starts with Us

The Environmental Safety & Health and Wellness Committees are teaming up this month to spotlight workplace well-being. We're sharing a brief, two-minute

the June service changes, including updated routes and schedules. We invite you to watch the video below to see how changes may affect your commute.

[Watch the video](#)

Do you want to know more about sustainable practices here on campus check out the Sustainability page and consider joining the committee. We meet on the first Friday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30 am, from September to June.

Article submitted by Human Resources.

every employee feels seen, supported, and safe.

[Watch the video](#)

If that doesn't reflect your current experience, or if you see opportunities for improvement, please consider reaching out to an ES&H or Wellness Committee member. Better yet, join us so you can help ensure all employees have access to the tools and resources CBC offers.

Article submitted by the Environmental Safety & Health Committee.

Upcoming Events



2nd Harvest for Mobile Market Food Distribution

CBC is once again partnering with 2nd Harvest to bring essential food assistance to our community through the Mobile Market Food Distribution.

This drive-up event will provide free food to 250 families on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 23
- Thursday, October 30
- Time: 11 am to 1 pm

The event is drive-up only, meaning recipients must remain in their vehicles while volunteers load food into their cars. The goal is to serve as many families as possible in a safe, efficient manner. The distribution will take place East of the Student Rec center.

Call for Volunteers

CBC faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to volunteer for this important event! Volunteers will assist with sorting, packing, and distributing food to families in need. We will be preparing everything from 10 to 11 am, then handing the food out from 11 am to 1 pm. The goal is to get 30 volunteers per event.

Faculty & Staff

Please help spread the word! Mention this event to your students and encourage them to participate—whether to receive assistance or volunteering to help. The line can be long, and food can run out well before 1 pm, so encourage attendees to arrive early and be patient. To sign up as a volunteer, or for more information, please contact [Floyd](#).

Article submitted by Michelle Stewart on Behalf of the Environmental Safety and Health Committee.



Campus Community Art Exhibition

Esvelt Gallery is proud to present the third CBC Campus Community Art Exhibition. This exhibition gives employees from across campus a chance to submit their work in a professionally installed exhibition.

The exhibition recognizes the creative endeavors of the staff, faculty, and administrators here at CBC with an opportunity to show off their talents at the Esvelt Gallery! The Campus Community Exhibition celebrates the creativity of Columbia Basin College employees.

Exhibition Dates

Please check out the [news coverage](#) we received for the art show!

If you have any questions please email gallerdirector@columbiabasin.edu.

Article submitted by Rachel Smith



CBC Would Like to Welcome Our Newest Employees!

Admin/Exempt

Constantino Montes

Constantino joined CBC in June as Director for Education Programs. Prior to this position, Constantino was Program Manager, Washington State Teacher Academies with Professional Educator Standards Board. Constantino earned a Master's degree in Mathematics from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

Classified

Noelle Russell

Noelle joined CBC in June as a Human Resources Consultant in Benefits. Prior to this position, Noelle was a Talent Manager with Robert Half Staffing Solutions in Spokane. Noelle earned a Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Washington State University in Pullman.

Alexander Toyoda

Alexander joined CBC in June as a Utility Worker in Maintenance & Grounds. Prior to this position, Alexander was a Maintenance Technician with Hilton Homewood Suites in Richland.



want to submit an article or event for Hawk Talk?

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